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You have to know what you have, and how to identify it, if you want to fight back against crime.

Keep information about your valuables in a secure place and upload pictures, receipts, warranties and appraisals to LeadsOnline, an internet-based pawn program in which pawn shops nationwide upload their transactions.

Citizens can create an account on LeadsOnline and enter information about their valuables, including a detailed description, any owner-applied number that would identify the item, the brand name/model name/serial or tag number and the date the item was purchased. Go to <https://reportit.leadsonline.com/> and put your own file together. To do that, start with the property inventory form on the City website at www.burlesontx.com/propertyinventory.

If your property is stolen, and you have documentation, you could get those valuables back. The Burleson Police Department subscribes to LeadsOnline and the service is free to the pawn shops. By uploading their transactions, pawn shops in Texas can meet their obligation under the Texas Pawn Act to provide copies of each transaction to their local law enforcement agency. Pawn shops that do not participate usually provide local law enforcement with the transaction information in an electronic or printed format.

LeadsOnline is available to any business that purchases secondhand items for resale. Pawn shops in Burleson and Fort Worth upload their information. The pawn shops in Johnson County either upload to LeadsOnline or their transactions are entered manually by the Johnson County Sheriff's Office. Nationwide, LeadsOnline is used by thousands of law enforcement agencies and participating businesses.

Agencies that subscribe to the service can search the transactions by serial number, owner applied number, or description. Transactions entered into LeadsOnline that contain serial numbers or owner applied numbers are automatically compared to stolen property records contained in the National Crime Information Center. In the event of a match an investigator will follow up on the lead.

In Burleson, if property is identified as stolen it is seized and a property hearing is scheduled in Burleson Municipal Court. Those identified as having potential interest in the property receive a notice of the hearing time and date to appear and present their case for ownership. The interested parties usually include the pawn shop's representative, the person who pawned the property, and the person from whom it was stolen. The Burleson municipal judge decides the greater right of possession and awards the property based on the facts.